(c) if so, whether Government propose to recognise computers as a subject and make provision for creation of posts of Computer Teacher?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Central Board of Secondary Education has introduced Computer Studies as an elective subject for class X and XII. Similarly Computer Literacy has been introduced as an optional subject in the curriculum of Work Experience which is an internally evaluated subject. In addition to this, Board also provides Computer application under Vocational Stream curriculum.

All the schools affiliated to CBSE are free to seek affiliation for the above subjects. As per the affiliation Bye-Laws such schools should have adequate teaching staff possessing the necessary qualification laid down for various posts/ subject teachers by the Board.

Observance of the year of Christ

1976. SHRI RAJUBHAI PARMAR:
SHRI V.N. GADGIL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to observe year 2000 as the Year of Christ;

(b) whether Government have constituted any Committee to chalk out concrete programmes for this celebration;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) No decision has as yet been taken to observe year 2000 as the Year of Christ.

Proposals for new Railway stations

1977. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for construction of new railway stations of Northern Railways, pending with Government during the last three years;

(b) the present status of each proposal;

(c) when the preliminary works such as survey .etc., has been/will be taken up; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) There are no such proposals pending with the Government at present.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Rail connection between Ambikapur and Anuppur

1978. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ambikapur in Distt.-Sarguja, M.P. is being connected directly with Anuppur;

(b) if so, when it would become operational; and

(c) if not, what are the difficulties in fulfilling the long standing demand of the tribal district of Sarguja?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A line is already operational between Anuppur and Bishrampur. Construction of a new line from Bishrampur to Ambikapur has been sanctioned and Final Location Survey has been taken up. This will be followed by land acquisition and work will be started as soon as land become available. An outlay of Rs. 5.00 crore has been provided in the Budget 1999-2000, for this work. The work is expected to be completed in about 5 years' time, subject to availability of resources.

Constitution of Railway Safety Committee

1979. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railway safety had not been reviewed for the past 20 years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a high level review committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Justice H.R. Khanna, a retired Chief Justice;

(c) if so, the details in regard to terms and conditions of the committee and the subjects to be reviewed;

(d) whether suggestions have been invited from the public;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when the Committee is expected to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir. Review of Railway Safety is a continous and ongoing process.

(b) Yes, Sir. A Railway Safety Review Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of a retired judge of the Supreme Court Justice H.R. Khanna.

(c) The terms of reference entrusted to the Committee are as under:

(i) To review the position of accidents on the Indian Railways since the appointment of the Railway Accidents Inquiry Committee, 1968 and to review the implementation of the recommendations of all previous Accident Inquiry Committees;

(ii) To examine the adequacy of the existing organization, equipment and practices for ensuring safe running of trains on Indian Railways and to suggest measures for prevention of accidents;

(iii) Implication of financial investment planning of Railways projects on Safety; and

(iv) To examine safety measures/equipment/technology as adopted by Railways on some of the advanced countries, which would have relevance for Indian Railways and could also be adopted for use on Indian Railways.

(d) and (e) Suggestions for improving Railways Safety have been invited from the public through two notifications issued in all the leading national daily newspapers of the country.

(f) The tenure of the Committee is upto 3-2-2000. However, Interim report is proposed to be submitted in August, 1999.